

## Message Text

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ACTION ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 AID-05 FDRE-00 VO-03

SCA-01 INSE-00 IO-10 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EA-06 /078 W

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O 292135Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6509

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 3009

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMG

SUBJ: RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

REF: STATE 097854

1. ON APRIL 29 I CALLED ON THE MINISTER OF COORDINATION  
BENERAL LECHIN TO MAKE AN ORAL DEMARCHE IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
INSTRUCTIONS IN THE REFTTEL. GENERAL LECHIN SAID THAT BOLIVIA  
WOULD, IN PRINCIPLE, WELCOME VIETNAMESE REFUGEES AND WOULD BE  
ABLE TO MAKE LAND AVAILABLE FOR CULTIVATION IF THE REFUGEES  
WERE QUALIFIED FARMERS AND WISHED TO ESTABLISH A SMALL COLONY.  
HE SAID THAT WERE THE REFUGEES TO BE TECHNICIANS, HE FELT SURE  
THAT OPPORTUNITIES COULD BE FOUND FOR THEM, PARTICULARLY IN  
THE SANTA CRUZ AREA, WHERE THE CLIMATE IS MORE SIMILAR TO  
THAT OF INDO-CHINA. GENERAL LECHIN SAID HE WOULD MENTION MY  
INQUIRY TO PRESIDENT BANZER AND INFORM ME PROMPTLY THEREAFTER  
OF THE PRESIDENT'S REACTION.

2. GENERAL LECHIN SAID THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IN THE  
CONSIDERATION OF RESETTLEMENT OF REFUGEES TO BOLIVIA TO KNOW  
MORE PRECISELY ABOUT THEIR TECHNICAL AND PROFESSIONAL SKILLS  
AND TO BE INFORMED OF THEIR FINANCIAL SITUATION. HE COMMENTED,  
TOO, THAT BOLIVIA'S FINANCIAL CAPACITY TO ASSIST MAY BE LIMITED  
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AND IT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO KNOW WHETHER THERE WOULD BE U.S.

OR INTERNATIONAL AGENCY TRANSPORTATION AND FOLLOW-UP ASSISTANCE.

3. GENERAL LECHIN NOTED THAT BOLIVIAN HAS IN ITS RECENT HISTORY RECEIVED IMMIGRANTS FROM OKINAWA AND FROM OTHER PLACES, THUS HAS A TRADITION OF HOSPITALITY TOWARD RESETTLED PERSONS. HE SAID HE SAW NO REASON WHY THIS POSITIVE BOLIVIAN REACTION WOULD NOT APPLY IN RELATIONSHIP TO VIETNAMESE REFUGEES.

4. I INTEND TO FOLLOW-UP THIS DEMARCHE WITH A SIMILAR ONE TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER AT 4 P.M. APRIL 30 AND UNLESS THERE IS AN OBJECTION, I WOULD LIKE TO LEAVE A BRIEF AIDE MEMOIRE WITH HIM DRAWING ON THE MAIN POINTS IN THE REFTEL.

5. IN MY PERSONAL VIEW THE MOST DESIRABLE AND USEFUL GROUPS OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES TO BE RESETTLED IN BOLIVIA WOULD FALL INTO TWO GROUPS. THE FIRST WOULD BE THOSE PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL PERSONNEL WHO ARE EXPERIENCED IN FIELDS SUCH AS TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND RURAL EXTENSION SERVICES TOGETHER WITH RELATED PROFESSIONAL SKILLS IN FIELDS SUCH AS ENGINEERING. A SECOND GROUP WHICH WOULD BE OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO BOLIVIA IN VIEW OF THE CONSIDERATIONS NOTED IN PARAGRAPH 3 ABOVE, ARE THOSE COMMUNITIES OF RURAL VIETNAMESE, PERHAPS INCLUDING VILLAGES WHICH HAD PREVIOUSLY EMIGRATED FROM NORTH VIETNAM TO THE SOUTH AFTER 1964 WHICH COULD BE TRANSPLANTED AS COLONIES EN MASSE TO THE SANTA CRUZ REGION OF BOLIVIA. I THEREFORE BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD TAILOR IMMIGRATION TO SUIT BOLIVIA'S SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS WHICH WOULD ALSO INCLUDE SKILLED LABOR. I WOULD URGE THAT DOCTORS AND LAWYERS AS WELL AS FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS WITHOUT SPECIAL TECHNICAL SKILLS NOT BE ENCOURAGED TO COME TO BOLIVIA.  
STEDMAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**TAGS:** AEMR, SREF, VS, VN, BL, (LECHIN, BENERAL)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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